

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19234

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA PLAYS BACK U.S. COVERAGE OF
PETERSON CASE

SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA AUGUST 11 REOPENS THE PETERSON
ESPIONAGE CASE, CARRYING A LENGTHY PIECE WRITTEN BY
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STURUA, ON THE BASIS OF U.S.
COVERAGE OF THE CASE, SMEARING THE CIA AND SUGGESTING
THE EMBASSY IS HEAVILY ENGAGED IN BOTH ELECTRONIC
AND "HUMAN" INTELLIGENCE GATHERING. END SUMMARY.

1. IZVESTIYA AUGUST 11 DEVOTES ALMOST HALF-PAGE TO
A FURTHER EXPOSE OF PETERSON ESPIONAGE CASE. UNDER
HEADLINE "TWO FACES OF MRS. PETERSON", WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT STURUA SUMMARIZES INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY
CARRIED IN TIME, NEWSWEEK AND WASHINGTON POST AND
OTHERWISE TRIES TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CASE THAT THE CIA
HAS RENOUNCED NEITHER "THE AIMS AND METHODS" OF
THE COLD WAR NOR "ATTEMPTS BY ANY MEANS -- RECALL THE
AMPULES OF POISON (IN THE PETERSON CASE) -- TO POISON
AND UNDERMINE THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE IN GENERAL AND
ESPECIALLY SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS".

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2. AMONG ITEMS OF INFORMATION STURUA BRINGS TO SOVIET
READER:

-- IZVESTIYA PHOTO OF PETERSON SITTING BEHIND TABLE
WITH POISON AMPULES, ALONGSIDE CONSULAR SECTION HEAD
GROSS, WAS PRINTED IN VIRTUALLY ALL U.S. PAPERS.

-- IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED BY U.S. JOURNALISTS THAT PETERSON WAS IN CIA EMPLOY. CIA SPOKESMAN IN FACT ONLY TRIED TO DENY SHE WAS MIXED UP IN A MURDER ATTEMPT (BECAUSE CIA IS "FORMALLY" PROHIBITED FROM SUCH ACTIVITY, STURUA ADDS).
-- PETERSON TOOK INTENSIVE COURSE IN RUSSIAN (NOTHING CRIMINAL ABOUT THAT, STURUA COMMENTS, BUT TRAINING IN USE OF POISONS IS SOMETHING ELSE).
-- HER "COVER POSITION" WAS AS CONSULAR OFFICER ON GROUND FLOOR OF EMBASSY, AND HER CHIEF DUTY WAS TO INTERVIEW SOVIET CITIZENS WHO MIGHT BE "POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS TO THE U.S." (STURUA'S QUOTES). SHE WORKED IN FACT FOR FIRST SECRETARY FULTON, WHO OPERATED OUT OF EMBASSY SEVENTH FLOOR, WHICH HOUSES THE "CIA OFFICE" AND THE POLITICAL SECTION, UNDER COVER OF POLITICAL OFFICER.

-- VARIOUS INFORMATION ABOUT PETERSON'S PRESENT STATUS IS DESCRIBED, AS WELL AS SPECULATION ABOUT HER PAST.

3. STURUA CONCLUDES HIS EXPOSE WITH A SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS CARRIED IN NEWSWEEK AND THE POST ABOUT ROLE OF HUMAN AS OPPOSED TO ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE. A FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD NEWSWEEK THAT "HUMINT" IS STILL NEEDED, ALTHOUGH NEWSWEEK NOTES CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT TECHNOLOGY REMAINS A CONSTITUENT PART OF ESPIONAGE IN MOSCOW, AS THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ANTENNAE ON THE ROOF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CONFIRM. ALTHOUGH NEWSWEEK BLAMES THE PETERSON CASE ON THE INSUFFICIENCIES OF TECHNOLOGY, THE BLAME ACCORDING TO STURUA REALLY BELONGS TO THOSE WHO TRY TO PUT TECHNOLOGY AND "HUMINT" AT THE SERVICE OF THE "FORCES OF REACTION AND THE COLD WAR, FOR UNDERMINING THE CAUSE OF PEACE".

4. COMMENT: THE LEVEL OF INVECTIVE DIRECTED AT THE U.S. HAS NOTICEABLY RISEN IN THE SOVIET PRESS IN RECENT DAYS. THE REOPENING OF THE PETERSON CASE AT THIS TIME MAY BE RELEVANT IN THIS CONTEXT, OR MAY BE SIGNIFICANT FOR OTHER REASONS NOT YET CLEAR. THE EMBASSY'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE PETERSON CASE, AND IN CURRENT INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IN THE SOVIET UNION, IS IN ANY EVENT A CONSPICUOUS FEATURE OF THE STURUA PIECE. TOON

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